

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 OC-05 CCO-00 OCL-00 SSO-00 SS-15

EB-07 EUR-12 DODE-00 L-02 INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 SP-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00 COME-00 FEAE-00 /065 W

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O 211435Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3293

CINCUSNAVEUR NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA NIACT IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR NIACT IMMEDIATE

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI GR NIACT IMMEDIATE

COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 2113

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS ASUP MMOR OGEN ET

SUBJECT: MOTOR FUEL FOR CONGEN ASMARA AND KAGNEW

REF: (A) NAVCOMUNIT ASMARA'S 171800Z FEB 75

(B) NAVCOMUNIT ASMARA'S 202100Z FEB 75

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY. THIS MESSAGE CONTAINS TEXT OF AIDE MEMOIRE TO EPMG ON CONGEN ASMARA/KAGNEW MOTOR FUEL SITUATION. IT ALSO TRANSMITS EMBASSY'S THINKING ON CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR CONGEN ASMARA FUEL SUPPLY. THE EXPLORATION OF AIR CHARTER POSSIBILITIES FOR LIFTING THE REQUISITE FUEL TO ASMARA FROM OUT-OF-COUNTRY IS REQUESTED AS ARE FISCAL DATA FOR EMBASSY'S USE IN PROCURING SUCH FUEL AND TRANSPORTING IT TO ASMARA.

1. EMBASSY GAVE MOFA'S AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR FOLLOWING AIDE MEMOIRE TODAY (FEB. 21) WITH REQUEST HE ACQUAINT MOD WITH ITS CONTENTS URGENTLY. DIRECTOR PROMISED DO SO.

2. BEGIN TEXT AIDE MEMOIRE. KAGNEW STATION'S MOTOR FUEL (GASOLINE) CONSUMPTION IS CURRENTLY 4,000 LITERS WEEKLY. THIS
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IS A NIMUM REQUIREMENT TO SATISFY MINIMAL USE OF VEHICLES

WHICH HAS BEEN DIRECTED IN CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES.
THE EMBASSY IS WELL AWARE THAT FUEL IS SHORT IN ASMARA.
IT MUST NEVERTHELESS REQUEST THAT APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS BE
GIVEN PROMPTLY TO THE MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR, MAJOR GENERAL
GETACHEW NADEW, TO MAKE AVAILABLE KAGNEW STATION'S MINIMUM
MOTOR FUEL REQUIREMENT FROM INCOMING SUPPLIES, FAILING WHICH
THE STATION MUST GO OFF THE AIR, CANNOT BE OPERATED AND
CANNOT, THEREFORE, SUPPLY THE ASSISTANCE TO THE CITY OF ASMARA
WHICH THE ETHIOPIAN PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT HAS FORMALLY
REQUESTED.

MOTOR FUEL (GASOLINE) STOCKS NOW ON HAND TOTAL 3,800 LITERS--
ENOUGH TO MEET THE STATION'S MINIMUM REQUIREMENT FOR SIX DAYS.
GIVEN THE DELAYS INVOLVED IN TRANSPORTING FUEL TO THE CITY OF
ASMARA, IT IS REQUESTED THAT THE REQUISITE BINDING INSTRUCTIONS
BE GIVEN THE MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATORS FORTHWITH SO THAT THE
TOTAL DEPLETION OF KAGNEW STATION'S FUEL SUPPLIES WHICH WOULD
ENTAIL THE CONSEQUENCES SET FORTH ABOVE MAY BE AVOIDED. END
TEXT.

3. IN VIEW LIMITATIONS ON TRANSPORT OF FUEL INTO ASMARA AND
DEMAND PRESSURES ON SUPPLIES BECOMING AVAILABLE INTER ALIA
FROM ETHIOPIAN ARMED FORCES, SEEMS PRUDENT PLAN FOR SITUATION
WHICH WOULD OBTAIN IF OUR REPRESENTATIONS FAIL OF DESIRED
EFFECT IN SIX DAYS REMAINING TO US.

4. IN THAT EVENT WE COULD TRY TO LIFT GASOLINE ON EAL CHARTER
CARGO PLANE OR MAAG C-54 INTO ASMARA. MAAG AIRCRAFT COULD
CARRY FIFTEEN 55 GAL DRUMS MAX. NOT QUITE A WEEK'S MINIMUM
OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENT FOR KAGNEW/CONGEN.

5. IF FUEL SUPPLIES BECOME MORE CONTRAINED FROM MASSAWA
AND ASSAB THAN THEY NOW ARE, HOWEVER, WE MAY ALSO BECOME UNABLE
TO PROCURE REQUISITE AMOUNTS HERE IN ADDIS. IN THAT EVENTUALITY,
ASSUMING KAGNEW FACILITIES ARE TO BE KEPT GOING, WE MAY HAVE TO
CONSIDER FLYING IN MOGAS FOR ONWARD MOVEMENT BY AIR TO ASMARA
AT VERY SHORT NOTICE.

6. ACTION REQUESTED:

A. PLEASE PROVIDE FISCAL DATA FOR POSSIBLE PROCUREMENT AND
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TRANSPORTATION REQUISITE GASOLINE HERE.

B. PLEASE EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF COMMERCIAL AIR CHARTER INTO
ASMARA CARRYING GASOLINE IN DRUMS (FYI NO MEANS OF TRANSPORTING
BLADDERS FROM AIRPORT TO KAGNEW) IN CASE EAL CHARTER IMPOSSIBLE
DUE TOTAL PREEMPTION ITS AIRCRAFT BY MILITARY. NOTE: WE PREFER
TO AVOID INTRODUCING FUEL BY MILITARY AIRCRAFT FROM OUT OF
COUNTRY INTO ASMARA. POSSIBLE USE OF MAAG/ETHIOPIA AIRCRAFT

TO CARRY FUEL FROM ADDIS IS AS FAR AS WE PREFER TO GO AT
PRESENT IF CIVIL CARGO AIRCRAFT UNAVAILABLE. END NOTE.
C. ADVISE.

7. FOR ASMARA: YOUR FURTHER COMMENTS INVITED AS NECESSARY.
WYMAN

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